

#### #46 “JESUS IS LOCO”

Matthew 12:22-50; Mark 3:20-35; Luke 11:14-36; 8:19-21

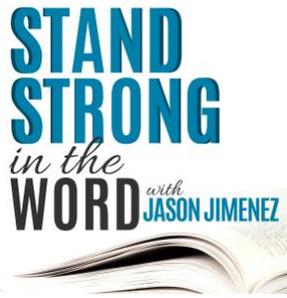
In Jesus’ second tour of Galilee (AD 27/30), He healed the centurion’s servant (Matt. 8:5-13), raised a man from the dead in Nain (Lk. 7:11-17), addressed the crowd about John the Baptist and their doubts about His ministry (Matt. 11:2-19), dined with Simon the Pharisee (Lk. 7:36-50), and now He faces even greater rejection. This time from His own family.

#### FIRST EVENT: THE PEOPLE THINK JESUS IS CRAZY

##### MK. 3:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. <sup>21</sup> And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”

1. ***He went home (v. 20)***—Jesus returns home again to Capernaum after traveling through Galilee. This home was possibly near the shores of Galilee (Matt. 13:1). Same house (possibly Peter’s home) that Jesus healed the paralytic (see Mk. 2:1-12).
2. ***The crowd gathered again (v. 20)***—The people continue to grow and follow Jesus; so much so, that He, his family and disciples couldn’t even eat, teach, or rest. Think of it as invading privacy and demanding various things from Jesus.
3. ***When his family heard it they went out to seize Him (v. 21)***—The religious leaders just accused Jesus of being from Satan. Now his family comes to “take Him by force” (if need be) because they think Jesus is overstrained and needs rest. Moreover, Jesus’ family was trying to protect Him and their own reputation due to the growing threats, accusations and stirring up His Galilean ministry had caused. That’s what ***He is out of His mind*** seems to imply in the GK. Jesus’ brothers were not believers as of yet (Jn. 7:5).
  - A. **Warren W. Wiersbe**, “*Our Lord was not being rude to His family when He remained in the house and did not try to see them. He knew that their motives were right but their purpose was definitely wrong. If Jesus had yielded to His family, He would have played right into the hands of the opposition. The religious leaders would have said, “See, He agreed with His family—He needs help! Don’t take Jesus of Nazareth too seriously.” Instead of giving in, He used this crisis as an opportunity to teach a spiritual lesson: His “family” is made up of all those who do the will of God. Our Lord’s half brothers were not believers (John 7:1–5) and Jesus felt closer to the believing publicans and sinners than He did to James, Joses, Judah, and Simon, and His half-sisters. Our Lord was not suggesting that believers ignore or abandon their families in order to serve God, but only that they put God’s will above everything else in life. Our love for God should be so*

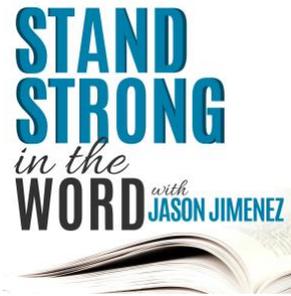


great that our love for family would seem like hatred in comparison (Luke 14:26).”<sup>1</sup>

**SECOND EVENT: LEADERS THINK JESUS IS OF SATAN**

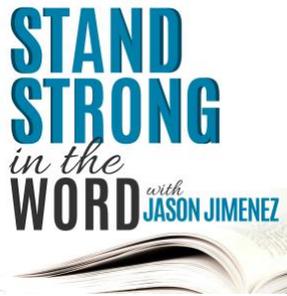
MATT. 12:22-37	MK. 3:22-30	LK. 11:14-23
<p><sup>22</sup>Then a <b>demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw.</b> <sup>23</sup>And all the people were amazed, and said, <b>“Can this be the Son of David?”</b> <sup>24</sup>But when the <b>Pharisees</b> heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.” <sup>25</sup>Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. <sup>26</sup>And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? <sup>27</sup>And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. <sup>28</sup>But if it is by the <b>Spirit of God</b> that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>29</sup>Or how can someone enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. <sup>30</sup>Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. <sup>31</sup>Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. <sup>32</sup><b>And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be</b></p>	<p><sup>22</sup>And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” <sup>23</sup><b>And he called them to him and said to them in parables,</b> “How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup>If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup>And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup>And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. <sup>27</sup><b>But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.</b> <sup>28</sup>“Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the <b>children of man</b>, and whatever blasphemies they utter, <sup>29</sup>but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, <b>but is guilty of an eternal sin</b>”— <sup>30</sup><b>for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”</b></p>	<p><sup>14</sup><b>Now he was casting out a demon</b> that was mute. When the <b>demon had gone out</b>, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. <sup>15</sup>But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” <sup>16</sup><b>while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven.</b> <sup>17</sup>But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. <sup>18</sup>And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup>And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup>But if it is by the <b>finger of God</b> that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>21</sup><b>When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe;</b> <sup>22</sup><b>but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.</b> <sup>23</sup>Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.</p>

<sup>1</sup> *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 120–121.



<p>forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.</p> <p><sup>33</sup>“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. <sup>34</sup>You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup>The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. <sup>36</sup>I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, <sup>37</sup>for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”</p>		
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1. ***The scribes had come down from Jerusalem (Mk. 3:22)***—Scribes were the experts in the law of Moses. They assisted the Pharisees and priests. Things are heating up. The religious leaders now send the experts to interpret who they think Jesus really is.
2. ***Demon possessed man was blind and mute (Matt.12:22; Lk. 11:14)***—Jesus just performed another miracle by casting out a demon from a man unable to hear or speak. The scribes respond by saying Jesus does so through the power of Beelzebul.
3. ***Can this be the Son of David (Matt. 12:23)***—*Son of David* is a Messianic title (see 2 Sam. 7:14-16). In the GK, the people were quickly feeling time is up. God’s kingdom is here. However, the religious leaders are stirring up doubt by claiming John the Baptist was a drunkard, and so is the Man he says is the Lamb of God (see Matt. 11:2-19).
4. ***“It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.” (Matt. 12:24; Mk. 3:22; Lk. 11:15)***—The religious leaders had their own form of exorcism. Though not as effective than Jesus’ way of casting out demons because they lacked true authority. *Beelzebul* (Lord of the flies) an ancient deity (Canaanite god in 2 Kings 1:2) later became a reference to Satan. Thus, the leaders are associating Jesus to Satan.
5. ***“And He called them to Him and said in parables” (Mk. 3:23)***—Often, Jesus would avoid conflict with the religious leaders. But in this occasion, He felt it necessary given the circumstance.
6. ***Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.” (Matt. 12:25)***—Jesus argues against their claims by showing that He can’t be associated with Satan if He is casting out demons. Nonetheless, if the Jews believed their exorcism is done in the power

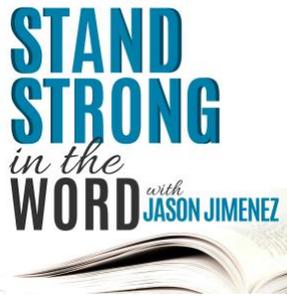


of God, and Jesus just cast out a demon that blinded and prevented a man to speak, then why aren't they accepting that His authority is done in the power of God?

7. ***“But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Matt. 12:28)***—Jesus is telling the leaders that He comes in the power of God. He has the authority to bind up Satan and cast him out.
8. ***Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:31)***—Hence, to reject Jesus’s teachings and healings—is to reject the work of the Holy Spirit. Either you are with Jesus, or you are against Him. This public teaching put everyone on notice. This cannot be reproduced today because it had to do with Jesus’ Galilean ministry on earth.
9. ***“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. (Matt. 12:33)***—Jesus challenges them to see the good that He has spoken, and the work He does for the glory of God. The “fruit” of Jesus is good, and the “fruit” of the religious leaders is bad.
  - A. ***Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (12:34)***—What we say and how we say it reveals the condition of our hearts.
  - B. ***Good heart...good treasure (12:35)***—Jesus said in the sermon on the Mount, that where your heart is your treasure is also.
  - C. ***Day of judgment (12:36)***--
    - 1) ***By your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned (12:37)***—The word *justified* means “shown to be righteous.” What you say says a lot about who you are. If even small talk, little lies, and broken promises are going to be judged, how much more so when it comes to rejecting God?

### THIRD EVENT: AN EVIL GENERATION

MATT. 12:38-45	LK. 11:24-36
<p><sup>38</sup> Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” <sup>39</sup> But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup> For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup> The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. <sup>42</sup> The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.</p> <p><sup>43</sup> “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but</p>	<p><sup>24</sup> “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’” <sup>25</sup> And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. <sup>26</sup> Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”</p> <p><sup>27</sup> As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!”</p> <p><sup>28</sup> But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”</p> <p><sup>29</sup> When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, “This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. <sup>30</sup> For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.</p>

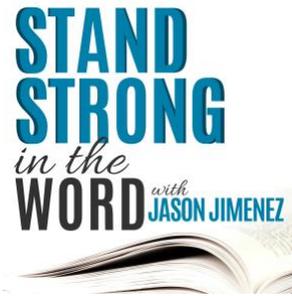


finds none. <sup>44</sup>Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. <sup>45</sup>Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation."

<sup>31</sup>The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. <sup>32</sup>The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

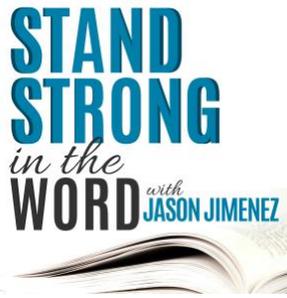
<sup>33</sup>"No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. <sup>34</sup>Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. <sup>35</sup>Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. <sup>36</sup>If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light."

1. ***Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you."*** (Matt. 12:38)—Jesus had performed many signs up to this point. However, the religious leaders rejected them all and wanted Him to perform one in front of them (with witnesses) that they would accept. It was a set up. And Jesus knew it. Moreover, Jesus didn't do things on command. He only did His Father's will.
2. ***An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign*** (Matt. 12:39)—Jesus calls the religious leaders an unfaithful group of Jews to God. They were not genuine in wanting to see whether or not Jesus is the Messiah. Their motives were malicious in nature. The proof was right before them, and they had the Scriptures to verify that Jesus was the Messiah. Yet, they preferred their religious system over the promises of God.
3. ***Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth*** (Matt. 12:40)—Jesus turns their focus to the Scriptures and puts in context the prophet Jonah and his message to the wicked city of Nineveh. ***Son of man be three days***—This was Jesus' second public announcement about His death and resurrection. He is the ultimate sign.
4. ***Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it*** (Lk. 11:32)—The religious leaders were worse off than even the Ninevites for their legalism, self-righteousness, and rejection of the Son of God.
5. ***Unclean spirit has gone out of a person*** (Matt. 12:43; Lk. 11:24)—Jesus now shifts His parable by using an unclean spirit (evil spirit/demon) to explain to the religious leaders how strong their bondage to idolatry and Satan's kingdom really is (see Acts 4:10-12).
  - A. ***Passes through waterless places seeking rest but finds none*** (Matt. 12:43; Lk. 11:24)—A Jew may have turned to Jewish exorcism, giving temporary relief to



the person. *Waterless places* seem to depict certain demons restless in pursuit of possessing human beings (Matt. 8:28-31).

- B. *I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order (Matt. 12:44; LK. 11:25)***—The “delivered person” is maintaining their religion to keep the evil spirits away. This, however, is not a true spiritual conversion; merely a spiritual diversion. The Jewish people cannot attain true reformation without the deliverance of God.
- C. *Brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself (Matt. 12:45; Lk. 11:26)***—There is a hierarchy to Satan’s dominion (see Eph. 6:12).
- 1) ***The spirits dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first***—A total domination/takeover over the person.
  - 2) ***So also will it be with this evil generation***—By rejecting God for their own authority—they will ultimately be taken over by the power of Satan.
- B. *No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. (LK. 11:33)***—Only those who follow Jesus will display the works of God publically for all to see. The *lamp* was something Jesus shared before in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matt. 6:22-23).
- C. *Your eye is the lamp of your body. (LK. 11:34)***—The clarity one has when the light of God is in them (see Jn. 8:12; 2 Cor. 4:3-6).
- 1) “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12
  - 2) “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- D. *Be careful lest the light in you be darkness. (LK. 11:35)***—King Saul allowed the darkness to consume him. Samson eventually saw the light and repented of his sins. The religious leaders professed to know the light, yet were blinded to the truth. Jesus will warn the leaders later in His ministry about not rejecting the light that is among them (see Jn. 12:35-50).



**FOURTH EVENT: THE REAL FAMILY OF GOD**

<b>MATT. 12:46-50</b>	<b>MK. 3:31-35</b>	<b>LK. 8:19-21</b>
<p><sup>46</sup> While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, <b>asking to speak to him.</b> <sup>48</sup> But he replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” <sup>49</sup> <b>And stretching out his hand toward his disciples,</b> he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!” <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”</p>	<p><sup>31</sup> And his mother and his brothers came, and <b>standing outside they sent to him and called him.</b> <sup>32</sup> <b>And a crowd was sitting around him,</b> and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, <b>seeking you.</b>” <sup>33</sup> And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” <sup>34</sup> <b>And looking about at those who sat around him,</b> he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!” <sup>35</sup> For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”</p>	<p><sup>19</sup> Then his mother and his brothers came to him, <b>but they could not reach him because of the crowd.</b> <sup>20</sup> And he was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, <b>desiring to see you.</b>” <sup>21</sup> But he answered them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”</p>

1. ***And Jesus’ mother and his brothers came, standing outside (Mk. 3:31)...they could not reach him because of the crowd (Lk. 8:19)...so they asked to speak to Him (Matt. 12:47)***—The situation continues to escalate with Jesus, the crowds, and the public ridicule of the religious leaders. On top of that, Jesus just scolded publically the Jewish leaders by saying they are an evil generation, possessed by powerful demons, and live in darkness. Therefore, it makes sense that Jesus’ family was attempting to get to Him so they can relieve Him from the crowds and avoid any further drama.
2. ***Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you (Lk. 8:20)***—Jesus’ family was desperate to see Him for they were concerned for His well-being. The language here doesn’t indicate they rejected His message. His family was simply worried for His safety, and for His physical and mental health.
3. ***And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.” (Matt. 12:49-50)***—What Jesus means is, no one (not even His own biological family) has more privilege—and therefore, authorized to call the shots. He was in the midst of doing His father’s will—to be among the people and call out the sins of the religious leaders.